

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously presented) Synthetic peptide A-V-K-E-G-P-E-Q-V-I-P-I-N (SEQ ID NO: 2).
13. (Previously presented) Synthetic peptide Y-T-N-G-P-L-P-D-K-L-Q-Q-A-R (SEQ ID NO: 3).
14. (Previously presented) Synthetic peptide R-S-G-C-N-G-D-S-G-G-P-L-N (SEQ ID NO: 5).
15. (Previously presented) Synthetic peptide G-P-L-N-C-P-T-E-D-G-G-W-Q (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 16.-24. (Cancelled)
25. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for human pancreatic elastase iso-enzyme comprising the steps of:

immunizing a vertebrate animal with an immunogenic composition comprising a conjugate consisting of a non-elastase carrier protein and a peptide, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

NH₂-A-V-K-E-G-P-E-Q-V-I-P-I-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 2)

NH₂-Y-T-N-G-P-L-P-D-K-L-Q-Q-A-R-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 3)

NH₂-R-S-G-C-N-G-D-S-G-G-P-L-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 5)

NH2-G-P-L-N-C-P-T-E-D-G-G-W-Q-COOH SEQ ID NO: 4)

NH2-S-L-Q-Y-E-K-S-G-S-F-Y-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 15)

NH2-F-G-C-N-T-R-R-K-P-T-V-F-T-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 16)

NH2-G-G-E-E-A-R-P-N-S-W-P-W-Q-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 10)

NH2-S-S-S-R-T-Y-R-V-G-L-G-R-H-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 11)

NH2-K-D-W-N-S-N-Q-I-S-K-G-N-D-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 12)

NH2-G-P-L-N-C-Q-A-S-D-G-R-W-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 13), and

NH2-G-A-L-P-D-D-L-K-Q-G-R-L-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 14);

thereby inducing the formation of the antibodies in the immunized vertebrate animal; and
separating and purifying the formed antibodies from the immunized vertebrate animal to
obtain polyclonal antibodies specific for human pancreatic elastase iso-enzyme, or
fusing B-cells from the immunized animal with a myeloma cell line and selecting and
cloning hybridoma cell lines to obtain monoclonal antibodies specific for human
pancreatic elastase iso-enzyme.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the vertebrate animal is selected
from the group consisting of rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, chicken and fish.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the vertebrate animal is a chicken.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the non-elastase carrier protein is selected from hemocyanin or albumin.

29. (Currently amended) ~~An isolated and purified polyclonal antibody-antibodies~~ specific for a human pancreatic elastase iso-enzyme made by a method comprising the steps of:

immunizing a vertebrate animal with an immunogenic composition comprising a conjugate consisting of a non-elastase carrier protein and a peptide, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of

NH₂-A-V-K-E-G-P-E-Q-V-I-P-I-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 2),

NH₂-Y-T-N-G-P-L-P-D-K-L-Q-Q-A-R-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 3),

NH₂-G-P-L-N-C-P-T-E-D-G-G-W-Q-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 4),

NH₂-R-S-G-C-N-G-D-S-G-G-P-L-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 5),

NH₂-S-L-Q-Y-E-K-S-G-S-F-Y-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 15),

NH₂-F-G-C-N-T-R-R-K-P-T-V-F-T-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 16),

NH₂-G-G-E-E-A-R-P-N-S-W-P-W-Q-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 10),

NH₂-S-S-S-R-T-Y-R-V-G-L-G-R-H-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 11),

NH₂-K-D-W-N-S-N-Q-I-S-K-G-N-D-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 12),

NH₂-G-P-L-N-C-Q-A-S-D-G-R-W-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 13), and

NH₂-G-A-L-P-D-D-L-K-Q-G-R-L-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 14);

thereby inducing ~~the~~ formation of the antibodies in the immunized vertebrate animal; and

separating and purifying the formed antibodies from the immunized animal to obtain the isolated polyclonal antibodies specific for human pancreatic elastase iso-enzyme.

30. (Currently amended) A diagnostic method for determining pancreatic function in a human patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~one~~two or more different purified polyclonal antibodies each elicited against an immunogenic composition comprising a conjugate consisting of a non-elastase carrier protein and one or more synthetic peptides selected from the group consisting of

NH2-A-V-K-E-G-P-E-Q-V-I-P-I-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 2),

NH2-Y-T-N-G-P-L-P-D-K-L-Q-Q-A-R-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 3),

NH2-G-P-L-N-C-P-T-E-D-G-G-W-Q-COOH SEQ ID NO: 4), and

NH2-R-S-G-C-N-G-D-S-G-G-P-L-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 5);

wherein said different antibodies are each specific for human pancreatic elastase1;

obtaining a sample of a bodily fluid or stool from the patient;

mixing the sample with the ~~one~~two or more different purified antibodies to form specific immune complexes among the antibodies and human pancreatic elastase 1 present in the sample; and

detecting an amount of the immune complexes to determine an amount of human pancreatic elastase 1 ~~iso-enzymes~~ in the sample, wherein the identification of the amount of a human pancreatic elastase 1 ~~iso-enzyme~~ in the sample is indicative of pancreatic function in the patient.

31. (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of claim 30 wherein the bodily fluid sample is a sample of serum, plasma, or pancreatic juice.

32. (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of claim 30 wherein the sample is a stool sample.

33. (Currently amended) The diagnostic method of claim 30 wherein two or more different purified polyclonal antibodies specific for human pancreatic elastase 1 ~~at least two different anti-elastase iso-enzyme antibodies~~ are provided and the method is a sandwich enzyme linked immunosorbent assay wherein the sample is brought into contact with a) a solid phase carrier-immobilized at least one of said antibodies, and b) a detectably-labeled at least different one of said antibodies ~~a specific anti-elastase iso-enzyme antibody immobilized onto a fixed phase and detected with a suitable detection system.~~

34. (Currently amended) A diagnostic kit for determining a disorder of pancreatic function or determining mucoviscidosis in a human patient comprising:

~~one~~ two or more different purified polyclonal antibodies each elicited against an immunogenic composition comprising a conjugate consisting of a non-elastase carrier protein and one or more synthetic peptides selected from the group consisting of

NH2-A-V-K-E-G-P-E-Q-V-I-P-I-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 2),

NH2-Y-T-N-G-P-L-P-D-K-L-Q-Q-A-R-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 3),

NH2-G-P-L-N-C-P-T-E-D-G-G-W-Q-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 4), and

NH2-R-S-G-C-N-G-D-S-G-G-P-L-N-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 5);

wherein said different antibodies are each specific for human pancreatic elastase 1.

35. (Previously presented) The diagnostic kit of claim 34 adapted to perform a sandwich enzyme linked immunosorbent assay wherein the kit comprises at least two different antibodies and wherein at least one of the antibodies is solid phase carrier-immobilized and at least one different of the antibodies is detectably labelled.

36.-38. (Cancelled)